

Reflections of the Rector



Dear brothers and sisters,

By the end of this month, I will have been with you for a whole year. It is a joyful occasion for me, and I hope it is for you as well. I love being your pastor, and I hope to do it for many years to come.

Priests usually spend the first year as a pastor of a new parish learning how things work in that community. By the time a priest arrives at a new parish, he would have already celebrated a few Christmas Masses, Lenten Penance Services, Easter Vigils, First Communions, Weddings, Baptisms, and other sacraments and sacramentals; but each parish, each church, has a different way of organizing and doing things. That is why it is prudent for a pastor not to make big changes during that first year.

So this year I have been learning a lot of things. I am grateful to the staff, finance council, parochial vicars, and all of you for your willingness to teach me more about the Cathedral Parish and our three churches. Although, I have also learned some skills that I hope I won't have to use again in the future, like ministering to parishioners with whom I cannot interact in person, or live-streaming private Masses.

I guess that means I will have to keep learning this year. But now I also want to get more direct feedback from you. During this year I will work on a pastoral plan for our parish. I do not want to be a pastor without a vision or a plan. So, I want to hear from you, especially answer the following 3 questions,

What are some of the strengths of our parish?

What are some of the areas of opportunity in our parish? What are some of the things that you would like to see happen?

What are you personally willing to do to make them happen?

Please send me your answers by email at desquiliano@sccathedral.org, or by snail mail at 1000 Douglas St., Sioux City, IA 51105.

Now, I want to be clear about something, I will only consider feedback that includes answers to all three questions. If we only answer the second one, that would just be complaining. We can all make this parish even greater, but we all need to be involved (question 3), and we need to start from the great things already happening (question 1).

Something else that I want to make clear is what my ultimate goal is; and that is that all of you make it to heaven. How we will do it is what I expect to come out from this pastoral planning.

Finally, and related to this reflection, all of you should have received a letter from me a few days ago asking you to update the contact information we have from you, and to sign up to different ministries. If you have not replied yet, I would be grateful if you did it soon.

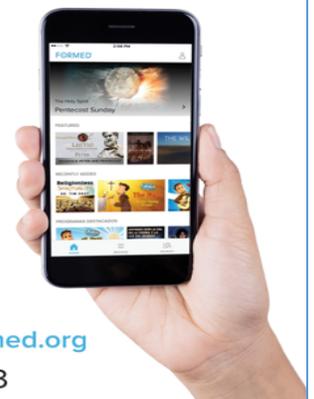
Once again, thank you for a great year, and I am looking forward to many more.

In Christ,
Fr. David Esquiliano

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Sacred Music

Like so many of you, I am eager for the time when we will be able to celebrate mass as a faith community in person. While we are happy to live-stream masses for our parish community, I am looking forward to the day when we can all worship and sing God's praises together, in person, as a faith community.

There is quite a bit of discussion amongst my colleagues at other cathedrals in the United States, Canada, and Europe about the role of music at mass during this time of pandemic. In Germany masses are open to the public, but congregational singing is not permitted, nor are choirs permitted to gather for rehearsal or for services. Here in the USA, different diocesan guidelines abound that are appropriate for each region.

Some are allowing small choirs with no congregational singing, some are allowing for limited congregational singing, and others are following the German example with zero congregational singing.

So what about active participation? How does a congregation actively participate if they're not allowed to sing? Difficult questions that need answering, but the short and simple answer is this: we join our hearts and minds in the liturgy. Just because someone isn't singing doesn't mean he or she isn't participating. We don't read aloud with the lector or deacon the readings, but rather we listen and internalize the Word, but we are participating in the mass. So, this might mean that when we return to public masses, music will be limited to cantor/choir/organ for a short time. I hope this model is short lived as the Church sees the sung mass as ideal.

Finally, if you are a Facebook subscriber, you can look for the page "Epiphany Cathedral Music" to see what is happening musically at the Cathedral. Concerts, music lists, information about the Cathedral organ, and videos or recordings are available.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Matthew Geerlings

<i>The Financial Corner</i>	
<u>INCOME</u>	Apr-20
Weekly Offerings	\$ 43,486.85
Loose Offerings	\$ 100.00
Programming Support	\$ 7,193.33
Other Income	\$ 4,887.89
Total Parish Income	\$ 55,668.07
<u>EXPENSE</u>	
Salaries and Wages	\$ 38,769.08
Administrative Expenses	\$ 5,891.04
Ministry Expenses	\$ 3,991.12
Utility Bills & Repairs	\$ 23,071.47
Assessments	\$ 7,705.00
Other Expenses	\$ 349.76
Total Expenses	\$ 79,777.47
Net Income	\$ (24,109.40)
BHCS Assessment Unpaid	\$ 150,000.00

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Faith and Sacramental Formation



We will conclude with the article that we started last month about the other type of “pandemic” that threatens and falls on an extremely high proportion of our world population: **child sexual abuse**.

In 1986, television host Fred Rogers (commonly known now as "Mr. Rogers," from the Mister Rogers' Neighborhood show for preschoolers) wrote the following in a newspaper article **(1*)**.

I was spared from any great disasters when I was little, but there was plenty of news of them in newspapers and on the radio, and there were graphic images of them in newsreels. For me, as for all children, the world could have come to seem a scary place to live. [...] There was something else my mother did that I've always remembered: "Always look for the helpers," she'd tell me. "There's always someone who is trying to help." I did, and I came to see that the world is full of doctors and nurses, police and firemen, volunteers, neighbors and friends who are ready to jump in to help when things go wrong.

"Always look for the helpers... There's always someone who is trying to help." This is a phrase that understandably goes "viral" on social media after tragic events. The devastating effects of child sexual abuse can be just as traumatic as natural disasters, as sickness, as worldwide pandemics. Similarly, they can leave deep marks that can last for years, especially if youth do not receive the help they need—help they don't know how to obtain. Help that isn't attainable to them because they aren't willing, or able, to talk about what happened. Or, maybe they don't have someone safe with whom they can share.

It's a beautiful phrase for you and me to reflect on—because we are, in fact, the helpers! Helpers are safe adults, trusted persons—ones who would never intentionally confuse the child. Helpers are caring adults who identify that the safety of youth is paramount. The ones whom children and teens are counting on to help, to be responsible for their safety. Whom survivors wish they had to advocate for them in their childhoods. It's our job, our moral responsibility and possibly even our legal one, regardless of our role in the children's lives—whether we are a volunteer in a ministry that involves them, or their teacher, a coach, a mentor, a grandparent, or their parent.

The reality is, it's good that you were at that safe environment session. It's a blessing you're here, now. Because, research has shown that you can stop abuse from continuing, and from even happening in the first place. There are tangible action items that we can do, individually and collectively to curb this pandemic of child sexual abuse.

You never know at what point a child might need someone to help them. A helper that does more than opens the door for them (but opens the door to a bigger issue). A person who listens to the youth, believes them and attains any needed help.

You may be in closer quarters with youth than you are used to during these times of restricted social movement, which gives you an opportunity to help them in ways that might not normally be on your radar: have those conversations with youth about their safety, listen to what they say—and what they don't; believe them. Pay attention to their body language and signs of distress. Be aware of what they're posting online, and of your own behavior that you're modeling on the Internet. If the children and teens in your care are exhibiting red flags, it might not be that they're being sexually abused, but they could be anxious and need reassurance from something else that might be amiss—perhaps regarding the other pandemic we are experiencing. If they need more help than you can provide, consider giving them the resource of online counseling or therapy, which is an alternative for people who are unable to go to an actual office.

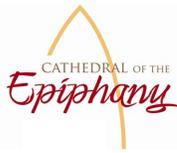
As scary as abuse is for adults to confront and work through, it's scarier for our youth. Their plea, whether vocalized or not, is for help. Show the youth of today, through whatever means possible, that we are willing to help the most vulnerable. As adults, we don't just "look for the helpers." We handle all types of pandemics in virtually the same way. Recognize the problem, identify potential solutions, reflect on how we each personally can contribute, and work together as a community. Be the helper. **We ARE the helpers.**

(1*) Fred Rogers; The Orlando Sentinel. Having people close can calm child's fears. Retrieved March 2020 from: <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/os-xpm-1986-06-25-8606280009-story.html>

In Christ Our Savior,

Santa Fernandez

Director of Faith and Sacramental Formation



Cathedral of the Epiphany

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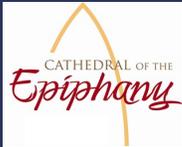
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June 2020

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL Rector
Rev. Jeremy Wind, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mauro Sanchez, Parochial Vicar
Very Rev. Bradley Pelzel, V.G., In-Residence

Website www.sccathedral.org
Email info@sccathedral.org
Telephone 712-255-1637

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

TUESDAY 5:30p-6:30pm St. Joseph
MONDAY-SUNDAY 24 Hour
Adoration Chapel-Epiphany Center

MASS SCHEDULE

MON.-FRI. 12:00 pm Cathedral *English*
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
SATURDAY: 4:00 pm St. Boniface *English*
6:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
SUNDAY: 8:30 am Cathedral *Latin*
8:30 am St. Joseph *English*
10:00 am Cathedral *English*
10:30 am St. Boniface *Spanish*
12:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
12:30 pm St. Joseph *Vietnamese*
1:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

MASSES HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Anticipated / Vigil
5:30 p.m. St. Boniface (English)
5:30 p.m. Cathedral (Spanish)
On the Day of the Solemnity
7:00 a.m. St. Joseph (English)
12:00 p.m. Cathedral (English)
5:30 p.m. Cathedral (Spanish)

MASS CIVIL HOLIDAYS

9:00am Cathedral (Bilingual)

CONFESSIONS

SUNDAY 8:00a- 8:30a St Joseph
MONDAY 4:30p -5:30p Cathedral
TUESDAY 4:30p -5:30p Cathedral
WEDNESDAY 4:30p-5:30p Cathedral
THURSDAY 4:30p-5:30p Cathedral
FRIDAY 11:30a -12:00p Cathedral
4:30p to 5:30p Cathedral
SATURDAY 3:00p to 4:00p St. Boniface
5:00p to 6:00p Cathedral